



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Wednesday, February 20th, 2013

Transportation Committee
Public Hearing Testimony on
**HOUSE BILL 5547, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAILING OF
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS AND NOTICES
OF EMISSIONS TESTING REQUIREMENTS.**

Dear Senator Andrew Maynard, Representative Antonio Guerrero, Senator Toni Boucher, Representative David Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Tim Ackert and I Represent the 8th District which includes Columbia, Coventry, Vernon and Tolland. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on House Bill 5547. I have brought this issue to the Committee for consideration for a couple of reasons: cost and impact on CT drivers.

First, the cost to send approximately 1.4 million emission notifications to owners with vehicles registered in the state a year. This postcard is similar in size to much of the mail that gets discarded as unwanted mail. The same vehicle owners are also mailed a registration renewal and the cost of this mailing is .14 per envelope. Every two years, the majority of vehicle owners have to bring their vehicles to an approved emission test facility to have it tested. If the vehicle is not tested in the allotted time frame there is a twenty dollar late fee imposed on the owner and they cannot reregister their vehicle until they have passed emissions or received an emissions waiver.

This brings me to my second point- the impact of this new notification system on compliance. Since the state has gone to the new postcard notice, there has been a noted saving to the state of approximately \$400,000 in mailings. The transition to the new postcard over letter mailings took place a few years ago. Coincidentally the fines rose drastically with this new mailing procedure. There was a time we had to look at an emissions sticker on our front window to remind of our emissions was due. In 2006, the late fees were approximately \$307,000.

Here are the late fees collected over the last five years.

Year	Amount
2008	\$1,888,800.76
2009	\$2,347,691.99
2010	\$3,097,914.90
2011	\$2,983,601.51
2012	\$3,460,165.58

It is apparent to me that we have a notification problem. I believe we can fix that problem and save money by mailing the emissions notification with the registration renewal. The owner of the vehicle will know they have to complete the emissions test before renewing their registration. This process will save the state time and money and the vehicle owner an unwanted late fee.

Please Visit My Website At www.repackert.com